

# Tallgrass Sierran



January/February 1997 Volume 25 No. 1

THE HEART OF ILLINOIS GROUP OF THE SIERRA CLUB ♦ P.O. Box 3593, Peoria, IL 61614

## HOI Group is Beneficiary of 80 Acres in Will of Ilo E. Dillin

Group Bylaws Prohibit Ownership of Land

BY RALPH GINN

On September 25, 1996 Ilo E. Dillin, 91, of Minier, Illinois died at Hopedale Nursing Home. Ms. Dillin's will bequests eighty acres of land to the Heart of Illinois Sierra Club. The will directs that this property "should be retained in perpetuity for this sole purpose, which I envision as allowing said land to remain in a natural state where no hunting or fishing shall be permitted and no agriculture use shall be conducted, with the exception of planting trees or native prairie grasses."

Ms. Dillin was not a Sierra Club member. The attorney for the executor, Ralph Turner of Bloomington, said she watched wildlife shows on TV, read National Geographic, and may have read about our activities in the newspaper. She had no close relatives and the only other heirs were a friend, the National Parks and Conservation Association, and the National Wildlife Federation. The remainder of her estate includes a home and approximately 300 acres of land. The eighty acres left to HOI is located between Minier and Armington in Tazewell County.

An apparent contradiction in her will is that sixty of the eighty acres is currently under cultivation and has been for many years. Mr. Turner wrote the Sierra Club that he mistakenly understood, at the time he wrote the will, that the entire eighty acres was in timber and in an uncultivated state. He stated that he would be supportive of a will construction suit. This would include a request to the probate court to allow other uses for the farmed land.

HOI wrote the National Sierra Club asking for direction on this matter and we have received assistance from Robin Latta, Sierra Club Estate Administrator. She will now handle this estate and provide legal assistance if needed, which is very likely if a construction suit is necessary. Ms. Latta informed us that it is Sierra Club policy not to accept real property. In conformance with the National Club, this is also a policy of the HOI Group (by-laws section 5.7).

At this time it would be pure speculation to predict what will happen to the Dillin bequest. HOI is prohibited from owning land and the will stipulates that the land be left in a natural state. Our options are certainly limited and will likely rest with Ms. Latta, Mr. Turner, and the probate judge.



The Ilo E. Dillin Estate: View of old barn from the forest edge.

RUDY JABBER

## General Meetings

WED.  
JANUARY  
15

### Pesticide Patrol

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

Ronald and Laurel Williams of rural Delavan, and Dennis Wooden of Bradford have both been victims of irresponsible pesticide spraying. Tonight they will share their experiences with us, and will discuss the steps you can take if you or someone you know has been exposed to chemical spraying. A question and answer period will follow. Refreshments follow the meeting. Everyone is welcome!

WED.  
FEBRUARY  
19

Forest Park Nature Center, 7 p.m.

The guest speaker for February's meeting has yet to be announced. Call the HOI HOTLINE in the near future for details on tonight's program. Refreshments follow the meeting. Everyone is welcome!

Yes you can!  
I-TAN

Do you want a quick, easy way to make your voice heard on environmental issues? Join the Illinois Telephone Activist Network (I-TAN). Approximately every two weeks you will receive a brief action alert, pass it on to another local I-TAN member, and then call the HOI HOTLINE for more detailed information and the officials to contact to make your opinion count. To join call Mary Bodell, 745-5479, or the HOI HOTLINE, mailbox 5, and leave your name and phone number.

## Pesticide Patrol

BY RONALD AND LAUREL WILLIAMS

The following are steps to follow if anyone has incurred personal or property damage from the misuse of pesticides. **REMEMBER: YOU MUST HAVE PROOF.**

- (1) If possible monitor time, wind velocity and direction. Call your local weather station for this information. Find out who is applying pesticides. A neighborhood watch would be a good idea.
- (2) Find out what pesticides were applied and what crop was in the field the previous year. Normally crops are rotated. Someone may have general information.
- (3) Collect samples as soon as possible; leaves, twigs, grasses, etc. Pesticide residue remains in plants for just a short time. Most damage will not show right away. Look for curling and cupping of leaves, burnt areas on bark, wilting of vegetation. Grasses will turn white and then brown. Send samples to an agriculture lab and tell them what pesticides to test for. A good choice is: Animal Disease Lab, 9732 Shattuc Rd., Centralia, IL. 62801. Phone: (618) 532-6701.
- (4) File a complaint with the IL. Dept. of Agriculture within 30 days. Phone: (800) 641-3934. They will send a form to fill out and then will conduct an investigation.
- (5) Document everything from the beginning. Take pictures of damaged trees, shrubs, flowers, garden grasses, etc.
- (6) Monitor symptoms of exposure to humans, pets, and livestock. Nausea, vomiting, diarrhea, neurological problems, skin irritations, breathing problems, etc.
- (7) If you need legal advice, contact an EPA attorney because of the long-term damages. For more information contact: Ronald or Laurel Williams, 22638 Toboggan Ave., Delavan, IL. 61734. Ph. (309) 244-7238.

*Editor's Note: Ronald and Laurel Williams of rural Delavan were the victims of commercial spraying by Agland Farm Service. They will be at our January meeting to discuss their experiences.*

### You can make a difference!

- ☐ **The White House:**  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue., NW,  
Washington D.C. 20500  
Comment Line: (202) 456-1111
- ☐ **U.S. Senators:**  
Carol Mosely-Braun / Richard Durbin  
U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510  
Capital Switchboard: (202) 224-3121
- ☐ **U.S. Representatives:**  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
Capitol Switchboard: (202) 224-3121  
Local: Ray LaHood (309) 671-7027  
Lane Evans (309) 793-5760
- ☐ **Governor Jim Edgar:**  
State House, Springfield, IL 62706  
Ph. (217) 782-6830
- ☐ **State Senator or Representative:**  
State House, Springfield, IL 62706  
Capitol Switchboard: (217) 782-2000



BY GRAYCE HAWORTH

The HOI Sierra Group has "adopted" two local stretches of state highway. We are responsible for picking up litter along our "adopted" highways a minimum of four times a year for the next two years. Our highways are: 1) Route 40, from Township Rd. (mile marker 13.06) north to the Hicks Hollow Rd. intersection, a total of 1.5 miles, and 2) Route 26 from Rt. 116 north to the Woodford County line, a total of 1.2 miles.

The 1997 dates chosen to pick up litter are April 20, June 22, Sept. 21, and Nov. 16. These dates CAN be changed if needed. Put these dates on your calendar now and

## Clean Water Celebration

BY RUDY HABBEN

The Clean Water Celebration returns to the Peoria Civic Center on Monday, March 10. The HOI Sierra Club will again maintain a hands on booth with "Sedimentation" as the lesson for the 4,000 junior high students expected to attend. If you would like to help staff our booth between 8 a.m. and 2 p.m. call Rudy Habben at 685-5605.

A special feature of this year's Celebration will be a presentation on global awareness by astronaut Mike Mullone in the Civic Center Theater at both 9 and 11 a.m. Admission is \$1.50. Admission is free to all other Celebration events.

Mike Mullone will also be conducting a motivational program on the evening of March 10th entitled "Team Building Lessons from Challenger". It is hoped this program will generate greater participation in civic and environmental projects by young professional and business persons. A fee of \$25 covers the program, including a following reception hosted by Illinois-American Water Company.

## Eastern Ring Road Concerns

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

On December 4th the Illinois Department of Transportation held an open house to present information on an Eastern Ring Road that would be a four-lane highway connecting I74 from the south, north through the Washington-East Peoria area and through the Germantown Hills area to the Illinois River at approximately Routes 6 and 29.

While IDOT states that this route has been under consideration since 1968, emphasis is being placed on this project as "needed to maximize the benefits associated with a new Peoria/Chicago highway." Three routes are being considered, and IDOT is recommending selection of corridor "B" for the highway. Many area residents have concerns as to what lands will be affected and the impact of such a route on the rural nature of the outlying communities. The Heart of Illinois Excom will address this issue at its January meeting.

## Adopt a Highway



plan to help clean up litter on whichever highway you choose.

All participants must first view a 7 minute video, which we shall have available at one of our meetings early in 1997, and will then be ours to view as needed on later dates. No more than 10 volunteers can pick up at any one time on one stretch of highway. Volunteers must be at least 10 years old.

Eighteen people have signed up and will receive further information in the coming months. If you want to sign up, please contact Grayce Haworth at (309) 246-8397, or R.R. 1 Box 219, Lacon, IL 61540.

## 👍 Harvest Dinner a Success! 👍

BY MARY BODELL

The cooperative efforts of our many hardworking volunteers resulted in a very successful evening! Larry Rice's slide program "Paddling a Canoe Through Siberia" was highly interesting. Chair Ralph Ginn emceed the evening. A delicious selection of soups, salads, breads and desserts was produced by our many fine cooks organized by Joyce Blumenshine. Lovely table decorations were provided by Cheryl Pauli. Twenty-fifth anniversary T-shirts designed by Al Harkrader were sold by Joyce, Cindy Matthias, and Deanna Ginn. Sierra Club calendars were sold by Chris Meydem again this year, and many very nice donated items were purchased by lucky bidders at the silent auction. Hardworking kitchen staff and setup and cleanup crews left the church in sparkling condition for our gracious hosts Pastor Wake and the Grace and Peace Lutheran Church. We served over 120 people and raised more than \$1,000 for the HOI Group. Thank you everyone! (Editor: And thanks also to Mary Bodell.)

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## Our Sincere Thanks and All Best Wishes to Virginia Scott

BY JOYCE BLUMENSHINE

Virginia Scott, Executive Director of the Illinois Environmental Council will be leaving her post after extensive years of dedicated service. Virginia's political expertise and hard work developed IEC into the essential voice for environmental concerns in Springfield. Her years as a lobbyist and as editor for the many environmental alerts and bulletins distributed by IEC have been a mainstay to the environmentalists of the state. *Great Thanks and Good Wishes go to Virginia as she leaves IEC.*



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Annual dues include \$7.50 for a subscription to *Sierra* magazine and \$1.00 for your Chapter newsletter. Dues are not tax-deductible.

#### MEMBERSHIP CATEGORIES

|                | INDIVIDUAL                     | JOINT                           |
|----------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| REGULAR        | <input type="checkbox"/> \$35  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$43   |
| SUPPORTING     | <input type="checkbox"/> \$50  | <input type="checkbox"/> \$58   |
| CONTRIBUTING   | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$108  |
| LIFE           | <input type="checkbox"/> \$750 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$1000 |
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Enclose check and mail to:

**Sierra Club**

P.O. Box 52968  
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80322-2968



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## Support the Endangered Species Act

BY RALPH GINN

In 1973 the U.S. Congress passed and President Richard Nixon signed one of the unique laws in the history of modern civilization, the Endangered Species Act (ESA). This act has been a statement about how we value life beyond our self-centered human egoism. Since 1973, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has listed 962 species as endangered or threatened. Only eleven have fully recovered, seven are known to be extinct, and fourteen are feared to be so. The ESA has been slow and creaky at times but it has worked to perfection at others. Like no other law, it has become a touchstone of environmentalism.

In 1995 a hostile Congress, fueled with money from agribusiness, developers, and mining and timber interests imposed a one year moratorium on endangered species listings. A year later, with the moratorium expired, the funding for new listings has been set so low as to be inadequate to resume listings for the backlog of 250 endangered and threatened species.

The conservation of endangered species is usually justified with four general lines of reasoning: utilitarian, ecological, aesthetic, and moral. The first, utilitarian, claims endangered species have the potential to provide us with beneficial knowledge and products. Ecological reasons point to a basic question of human survival. How many species can be lost before we too are doomed? Aesthetics is subtle but powerful. Consider the time, money, and value we place on trips to national parks, wilderness areas, and wildlife refuges. And consider the number of people that own a few acres or a naturalized yard. To those of us who love the outdoors, the morality of conserving endangered species may be the most compelling of all. For, to reject the inherent right to existence of other species for the benefit of one severs a fundamental connection between ourselves and our origins. Whatever the religion, the morality of oneness with nature is elemental.

Congress heard the environmental message of November 5, 1996. Don Young and Richard Pombo's bill that would have devastated the Endangered Species Act is dead. There is great opportunity for us to restore funding, and the possibility of strengthening ESA. No other law is more at the core of environmentalism. Support ESA!

## New 1997 HOI Officers

New HOI officers elected at the January 7th Excom meeting are Rudy Habben, Chair and Chapter Delegate, Joyce Blumenshine, Vice-Chair, John Wosik, Secretary, Cindy Matthias, Membership Chair, Mary Bodell, Outings Chair, and Hal Gardner, Alternate Chapter Delegate. Two vacant positions on the Executive Committee were filled by the new Excom. Ralph Ginn was appointed to serve the remainder of Perry Johnson's term, and was selected as our new Conservation Chair. Grayce Haworth was appointed to serve the remainder of Larry Robbins' term and will continue as Treasurer. *Special thanks go to both the outgoing Excom members, and those new members for their past and future efforts on behalf of the Club.*



# HOI Group Calendar

## January

### 15 General Meeting, 7 p.m.

WED Forest Park Nature Center,  
"Pesticide Patrol: Ronald and  
Laurel Williams, and Dennis  
Wooden"

### 19 Illinois River Eagle Watch, 9 a.m.

SAT Join Sierra Club member  
Brenda Onken at the  
Forest Park Nature  
Center. From there we  
will be touring selected  
Illinois River valley  
locations between Peoria  
and Henry in search of our national  
symbol, the Bald Eagle. Last year  
over 50 eagles were spotted! Lunch  
along the way is planned. Dress  
appropriately and bring your  
binoculars! Call Brenda at 923-7676  
for more information.



## February

### 2 STARVED ROCK WINTER HIKE, 9 a.m.

SUN This traditional hike starts by car  
pooling at the Forest Park Nature  
Center. . . or meeting at the Starved  
Rock Lodge Great Hall at 10:30 a.m.  
Bring something to eat and drink on  
the trail during the 3-4 hour outing,  
and dress for the weather. Follow-  
ing the hike a stop is planned at  
Mona's in Toluca on the way home.  
Call Al or Mary Harkrader at (309)  
682-8462 for more information.

### 11 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

TUE Peoria Pizza Works

### 15 Ilo E. Dillin Outing, 1 p.m.

SAT Visit to the property named in Ms.  
Dillin's will for the HOI Sierra Club.  
We will view the historic barn and  
do some hiking. Meet at the Forest  
Park Nature Center to carpool.  
Option for dinner afterwards at a  
"country" eatery. Call Joyce at  
688-0950 for information.

### 19 General Meeting, 7 p.m.

WED Forest Park Nature Center. Guest  
speaker to be announced.

### 21 Newsletter Deadline

FRI Send articles for March and April  
to: John Wosik, 3403 W. Richwoods  
Blvd., Peoria, IL 61604, or  
jwosik@aol.com

### 23 Rock Island Trail Cross-Country Ski, 1 p.m.

SUN We will ski or  
hike the Rock  
Island Trail.  
Meet at the Trail  
parking lot on  
Parks School  
Rd. (west off Rt.  
91 just north of  
Dunlap). We  
will head toward Princeville for  
some aerobic skiing or walking. Call  
Joyce at 688-0950 for information.



### 26 Newsletter Mailing, 7 p.m.

WED Peoria Pizza Works; Everyone  
welcome!

**Other Events:** (Not sponsored by the  
Sierra Club but provided as a public service.)

#### East Peoria Landfill Expansion:

Jan. 16 - Public forum, East Peoria  
Community High School, 7 p.m. Sponsored  
by the Environmental Review Committee.

Feb. 11 - Public hearing, East Peoria City  
Hall, 100 S. Main St., 1 p.m. Public  
comments will follow a presentation by  
Waste Management and by Randolph &  
Associates, an environmental engineering  
firm hired by the city.

#### Mega Hog Farms:

Jan. 29 - Illinois Pollution Control Board  
hearings on IL. Dept. of Agriculture's pro-  
posed permanent rules for the Livestock  
Management Facilities Act; 9 a.m., Regency  
Hotel, 3282 N. Henderson St., Galesburg.

#### Weekend Outings Hosted by the River to River Trail Society:

Jan. 25-26 - Cache Wetlands  
Feb. 8-9 - Lusk Creek & Heron Pond  
Feb. 22-23 - Garden of the Gods  
Call Lee or Cindy Smith at 618-658-8409  
for more information.

## March

### 10 Clean Water Celebration

MON Peoria Civic Center, 8 a.m. to 2 p.m.  
Contact Rudy Habben, 685-5605,  
for more information.

### 11 Executive Meeting, 7 p.m.

TUE Peoria Pizza Works

### 19 General Meeting, 7 p.m.

WED Forest Park Nature Center. Guest  
speaker to be announced.

*New Officers*

### Heart of Illinois Sierra Club

**HOTLINE:** Local Meetings & Outings • Action Alerts • 745-1920  
Public Official Contacts • Leave Messages

#### Executive Committee

|  |                             |          |
|--|-----------------------------|----------|
| Chair / Chapter Representative . . .       | Rudy Habben . . . . .       | 685-5605 |
| Vice-Chair . . . . .                       | Joyce Blumenshine . . . . . | 688-0950 |
| Secretary / Newsletter Editor . . . . .    | John Wosik . . . . .        | 682-8950 |
| Treasurer . . . . .                        | Grayce Haworth . . . . .    | 246-8397 |
| Membership Chair . . . . .                 | Cindy Matthias . . . . .    | 686-4134 |
| Conservation Chair . . . . .               | Ralph Ginn . . . . .        | 274-3289 |
| Alternate Chapter Representative . . . . . | Hal Gardner . . . . .       | 446-9792 |
| Outings Chair / I-TAN . . . . .            | Mary Bodell . . . . .       | 745-5479 |
| Calendar Sales . . . . .                   | Chris Meydam . . . . .      | 682-0549 |

#### HEART OF ILLINOIS

### Sierra Club

P.O. Box 3593  
Peoria, IL 61614



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